

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

DAVIS, Jim (Democrat)
Representative, 11th District, Florida
Elected 1996 to the 105th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Tampa, Florida - 11 October 1957

Home: Tampa, Florida

Marital status: Married (Peggy) - 2 children

Religion: Episcopal

Education: Washington & Lee University, B.A., University of Florida, J.D.

Military: None specified

Profession: Public official; lawyer

Political: Florida State Representative, 1988-96. Defeated Mark Sharpe (R) with 58% of the vote for the seat of retiring Rep Sam Gibbons (D). Reelected in 1998 with 65% and in 2000 with 85% of the vote. Ran unopposed in 2002.

Rep Davis is a political moderate who focuses on education, crime and welfare. Member of the House New Democrat Coalition, a group of socially moderate and fiscally conservative Democrats. Also considered an environmentalist. Described as calm, deliberate, and a consensus builder. Has been mentioned often as a possible candidate for state-wide office in Florida. (CQ Profile, 2003) During the 105th Congress called for a full accounting of US POW-MIA's, stating "We must never forget the soldiers who fought to preserve our freedom but never made it home." Sponsored bills to control waste, fraud and abuse in the health care industry.

In the 106th Congress, cosponsored bill that would end IMF and World Bank aid to Indonesia until the violence in East Timor ends. Supports efforts to invest in US domestic space-launch capacity instead of relying on other countries, including an amdt to increase the ability of the Kennedy Space Center and Vandenberg AFB to engage in commercial launches. Supported a motion commending the President, the troops, NATO, and others for their achievements in Kosovo. Said US needed to work with European Allies to achieve a lasting peace in that critical region. Urged support for the airstrikes and continued participation in Operation Allied Force.

In the 107th Congress, co-chaired the House New Democrat Coalition. Commended the crew of the Navy EP-3 forced to land in China in 2001 after a mid-air collision. Said that Florida military installations would be at the forefront of the US response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Opposed the call for tax cuts, citing the need for increased funding for homeland security and defense. Advocates trade liberalization and was scorned by some fellow Florida colleagues for visiting Cuba. Supported the October 2002 Iraq war powers resolution, after failing to win support for his amdt to require that the US first exhaust diplomatic efforts prior to going to war.

In the 108th Congress, received a long-sought assignment to the Energy & Commerce Cmte, coming off the Budget, International Relations, and House Administration Cmtes. Continues to oppose lifting the ban on oil drilling off the coast of Florida and some other states.

Additional: Member, House Democratic Steering Committee (policy & strategy setting panel)
AF Bases: MacDill AFB (Partial closure in Sep95)

COMMITTEES

ENERGY AND COMMERCE – Subcs on: Commerce, Trade & Consumer Protection;
Environment & Hazardous Materials; Oversight & Investigations; Telecommunications &
the Internet